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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, You have set before us many ways of doing Your work in our world. Empower us to creatively use our abilities for Your glory. Open our eyes to see possibilities in seemingly barren places. Use us to open new channels of blessing to those who need it most.

Speak to our Senators and give them a willingness to obey Your voice. Strengthen them to follow Your precepts and to trust You in quietness and confidence.

Renew us so we will mount up on wings like eagles. Help us to run and not be weary, and to walk and not faint.

And Lord, today, we pray for those affected by the Midwest tornadoes.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we are starting consideration of the budget resolution which was reported out of the Committee on the Budget on Thursday. The chairman and ranking member are here and we will open the debate this morning.

The Budget Act provides for up to 50 hours of debate. Therefore, I hope Senators will come to the Senate today and use that time for their opening statements.

This week will be quite busy as we consider the budget resolution each day and night as that clock ticks. We will finish the resolution this week, and that will normally require full sessions with votes, which I expect. We would like to minimize the so-called vote-a-rama at the end of the process. I know the two managers have been talking, are talking, and will be working together in an effort to avoid that, if at all possible.

This week we will also complete the extension of the debt limit. The Democratic leader and I are working on an agreement for the consideration of that bill. I hope we can reach a reasonable period for the debate on that must-do legislation. Needless to say, there is a lot of work to be done prior to the adjournment. We will stay in session as necessary to give the managers the best opportunity to complete our business.

This week we will complete action on the budget. And we will complete action on the debt limit. On Wednesday of this week, we will have a joint meeting with the House to hear an address by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia. That address will begin at 2 p.m.; therefore, Senators should gather in the Senate Chamber at 1:30 so we can proceed at 1:40 to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

Lastly, I remind my colleagues we have a rollcall vote scheduled for 5:30 this evening. That vote will be on the confirmation of Leo Gordon to be a

judge for the U.S. Court of International Trade. That will be the first vote of the day.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the call of the quorum be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of the budget resolution, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Con. Res. 83) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007, and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 and 2008 through 2011.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 11:30 a.m. shall be equally divided.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we are now proceeding to the budget?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct. The budget is before the Senate.

Mr. GREGG. I begin by thanking the committee, the committee staff, both the majority and Democratic side, for the assistance in getting us to this point. We had a markup last Thursday which was done very professionally. A lot of issues were raised. A lot of votes were taken. We were able to complete the budget on a timely schedule pursuant to the rules of the Senate.

Now we are in the Senate. As everyone knows, under the rules of the Senate, we have 50 hours on the bill. Then we have what is known as the vote-arama. The Senator from North Dakota and I have been talking. We hope

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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